Year	Number of instances
2000	Four
2001	One
2002	Two
2003	One

All these maps were examined in the Policy Planning & Research Division. As per the existing practice in this regard, the concerned Indian Mission/Post was asked to take up this issue with the concerned publishers/agencies and to impress upon them not to repeat these distortions/discrepancies in their future publications.

Discussions on Alternate Trade and Yatra Routes with China

†512. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discussion with regard to opening of alternate routes for the trade purpose and Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra, have taken place between India and China during the Prime Minister's visit to China;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether China has agreed to India's request to allow Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra through alternate route also beside traditional route; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (d) During Prime Minister's visit to China in June 2003 India and China signed a Memorandum on Expanding Border Trade, which adds Nathula as another pass on the India-China border for conducting border trade. The Indian side has agreed to designate Changgu of Sikkim state as the venue for border trade market, while the Chinese side has agreed to designate Renquinggang of the Tibet Autonomous Region as the venue for border trade market.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

During the visit, the issue of additional routes for the Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra was also discussed with the Chinese side. The Chinese side conveyed that they would consider the request according to conditions in Tibet.

Indian joint ventures in Iraq

513. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that USA and UK have approached India or *vice-versa* for setting up joint ventures in Iraq after the lifting of sanctions in Iraq;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have sought MFN status from the new Goverment in Iraq; and

(d) if so, the response of the Iraq Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Ties with Central Asian Republics

514. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be please to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been able to re-establish its traditional ties with Central Asian Republics through the re-opening of the Silk Route;

(b) if so, the significant achievements made during the year 2002-2003; and

(c) the prospects envisaged during 2003-2004?